

PATENT  
674509-2032**REMARKS**

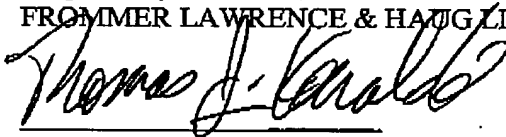
Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herein which place the application in condition for allowance.

The May 6, 2003 Office Action indicated that claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9 and 13-16 were allowable, for which the Examiner is thanked. Claim 8 was rejected as allegedly anticipated by Girmuler et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,652,010). The amendments herein cancel claim 8, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application and a prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,  
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By:

  
Thomas J. Kowalski  
Reg. No. 32,147  
Angela M. Nigro-Collison  
Reg. No. 51,107  
(212) 588-0800

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